

CLAIMS

1. A method for remotely activating a service channel comprising:
using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote client to a
host;
5 receiving the trigger;
authenticating the trigger; and
opening the service channel to allow a connection with the remote host.
2. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein
10 using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a protocol to format
the transport mechanism.
3. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein
15 using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a backscatter effect
as the trigger.
4. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein
opening the service channel on the host further includes opening a port.
- 20 5. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein
opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a reply to the remote
client.
- 25 6. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein
opening the service channel on the host further includes spawning a service if the trigger
is authenticated.

7. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes establishing a connection between the remote client and a service on the host.
- 5 8. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes receiving a request from the remote client.
9. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a response by an operating system on the host to the remote client.
- 10 10. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending an address from the host to the remote client for establishing the connection.
- 15 11. A system for remotely activating a service channel comprising:
a transport mechanism for sending a trigger from a remote client to a host;
and
20 a stealth application on the host for receiving the trigger from the remote client, authenticating the trigger on the target host, and opening the service channel on the host to allow a connection with the remote client.
12. A system for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 11 wherein the transport mechanism is installed on the host.
- 25 13. A system for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 11 wherein the trigger is a data packet.

14. A system for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 11 wherein the trigger is a pre-defined sequence of packets.

5 15. A system for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 11 wherein the trigger is a backscatter data packet.

10 16. A method for remotely activating a service channel comprising:
receiving a trigger at a port on a host;
suppressing a response to the trigger;
authenticating the trigger; and
opening the port on the host if the trigger is authenticated.

15 17. A method for remotely activating a service channel comprising:
Sending a pre-defined trigger to a port on a host;
Waiting for a pre-defined time period;
Sending a connection request to the port on the host after the pre-defined time period has expired; and
Establishing a connection over the service channel with the host.

20 18. A method for remotely activating a service channel comprising:
receiving a trigger at a service port on a host remotely communicating with a server;
directing an operating system to suppress sending a response to the trigger;
authenticating the trigger based on a characteristic of the trigger; and
25 opening the service port on the host to permit a connection to occur over the service channel.

30 19. A computer program product for remotely activating a covert service channel, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

5 using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote host to a target host;
receiving the trigger by a stealth application on the target host;
authenticating the trigger on the target host; and
opening the covert service channel on the target host to allow a connection
with the remote host.

- 10 20. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:
instructions for using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote host to a target host;
instructions for receiving the trigger by a stealth application on the target
host;
instructions for authenticating the trigger on the target host; and
instructions for opening the covert service channel on the target host to
15 allow a connection with the remote host.